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VOL. XXXIV, No. 9235Laskov Takes Over As
Chief of Staff Today

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rav-Aluf Haim Laskov assumed command of the Israel Defense Forces at 5 o'clock this morning following his formal appointment yesterday as Chief of the General Staff by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

The Chief of Staff's Standard, relinquished by the outgoing Defense Forces commander, Rav-Aluf Moshe Dayan, was handed to Rav-Aluf Laskov by Mr. Ben-Gurion in a ceremony in the Cabinet Room at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Shortly before 4:30 p.m., the Cabinet Ministers lined up on the left side of the room. They were joined by Mr. T. Kollek, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, and Mrs. Ben-Gurion.

The new Deputy Chief of Staff, Aluf Zvi Tur, and Army, Navy and Air Force brigades took up their positions on the right side. They were joined by Mr. Shimon Peres, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense.

The Prime Minister entered the room accompanied by Rav-Aluf Laskov and Rav-Aluf Dayan. They took up positions at the Prime Minister's table on which lay the Standard of the Chief of Staff.

Mr. Ben-Gurion opened the ceremony with the words "Dear Moshe" and then read his letter of appointment to Rav-Aluf Laskov dated January 27, when he had closed, "with

Letter of Appointment

The Prime Minister's Commission to Rav-Aluf Laskov, by virtue of the Cabinet decision of Sunday, January 23, 1950, you are hereby appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces with the rank of Major-General.

"The appointment takes effect at 5:00 on January 26, 1950."

"You have served faithfully and capably in the Hagana, in the Jewish Brigade and the Israel Defense Forces. You had command in hard battles in the War of Independence and the Sinai Campaign and did not disappoint. It is my hope that you will not fail in this supreme task in the Israel Defense Forces."

"The greetings of the Cabinet and my own personal greetings are extended to you on assuming your most responsible duties."

brotherly affection and appreciation," he handed the letter to Rav-Aluf Dayan and shook his hand.

Rav-Aluf Dayan read his reply, and handed the Standard to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Ben-Gurion read his letter of appointment to Rav-Aluf Laskov, following it by reading the Commission appointing him Chief of Staff.

He then turned to the Standard to his keeping.

Rav-Aluf Laskov shook the Prime Minister's hand, and read his reply.

The ceremony closed with all present toasting the new and outgoing Chiefs of Staff.

Later, Mr. Ben-Gurion, Rav-Aluf Laskov, Rav-Aluf Dayan, Zvi Tur, called on the President, who extended his best wishes.

For the duration of the ceremony, a crowd of about 100 persons stood in the courtyard outside the Prime Minister's Office, in bitter cold.

"My dear Moshe," the Prime Minister began, "for several months I have been debating with myself, hesitating to accept your request to be relieved of your duties. Admittedly you have served longer in the Hagana and in the Jewish Brigade than any of our predecessors, but you did not ask to be relieved because of fatigue. I know that your powers today are no less than they were on December 6, 1953, more than four years ago when you were appointed Chief of the General Staff, although during these four years you were entrusted with overwhelming and hazardous duties which no head of the Defense Forces has faced since the end of the War of Independence early in 1949."

"After exhaustive discussions with the leading commanders of the Defense Forces, I finally decided to accept your request, and the Cabinet, also not without hesitation, confirmed my decision. I felt it a moral duty, a duty that, in my opinion, the entire State owes you, to respect your wishes and enable you to study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for two years. The decision was made somewhat easier for me when you expressed your desire to remain in the Army with the rank of Aluf."

"You had the good fortune to be born in Dagnia, 'mother of commandments' and to spend your first years there. You grew to manhood at Nahalal, that exemplary workers' cooperative settlement founded by the best of the Second Aliya, which included Devora and Shmuel, your parents."

"The strength you drew from the soil of your Homeland, from the day of your birth, and the example set for you by your late mother and by your father, have left a life-long imprint in the villages of the Homeland in which you grew up, and from

US Giving \$10m.
To Baghdad Pact States

Photo by Associated Press

ANKARA, Wednesday. — The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, today announced a token American donation of \$10m. for the Muslim member countries of the Baghdad Pact, subject to Congressional approval.

The donation is to help in the setting up of a joint communications project by Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq and Persia. It is estimated to \$12.5m, which the U.S.A. gave last year.

Informal sources said Mr. Dulles decided to announce the token donation following appeals from the Muslim members of the pact.

The touchy problem of economic development is one of the chief items on the agenda of the conference.

Nuri's Efforts

Conference sources said today that Nuri Said, the Iraqi delegation leader, has been busy conferring with Mr. Dulles as well as the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Premier Menderes of Turkey, Premier Noon of Pakistan, and Premier Eghbal of Persia, urging a speedy settlement of the Palestine problem.

They said the former Iraqi Premier pointed out that the Arab states "in principle" are calling for the British of Palestine as a basis for settlement negotiations. He presented Israel as a threat to the peace of the Middle East — a threat which should be urgently met because whatever threatened Middle East peace also threatened world peace.

Nuri has asked Mr. Dulles to use American influence with Israel to settle the Palestine problem.

The sources said that while Mr. Menderes agreed with Nuri's plea for an early settlement, he did not commit himself to accepting the Israeli statesman's appraisal of Israel as a threat to peace.

Nuri held an additional private meeting with Mr. Menderes and Mr. Eghbal this morning.

The Baghdad Pact Council decided to hold its next session in London in July, it was announced today.

Soviet-Egyptian
Economic Treaty

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuter).

— Russia and Egypt today signed a new economic agreement at a Kremlin ceremony attended by Soviet leaders, including Mr. Nikita Khrushchev and Premier Bulganin, and an Egyptian delegation headed by Industry Minister Aziz Sidky.

Moscow Radio reported, the agreement says the two governments will cooperate in the development in Egypt of geological work, mineral production, oil prospecting, the metal industry, the building of machinery and electrical equipment, the chemical and light industries, the textile industry, the foodstuffs industry, medicines and medical equipment.

Russian organizations will supply Egypt with machinery and equipment and will help plan the building of industrial establishments.

Egypt will pay for the technical aid, equipment and machinery by the export of Egyptian goods, including cotton and other agricultural products, and also in hard currency.

"You took the villages of Kula, Deir-Tarif, and Beit-Nabala by storm, and then came the turn of Lydda and Ramle, although both in manpower and in armament the Arab Legion there was superior to your battalion."

"In these battles, you displayed the two fundamental qualities that are essential to each other, but which made you one of the finest soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces — almost mad daring, counter-balanced by profound tactical and strategic thought."

"In August 1948, after the Second Truce, when I appointed you Commander of Jerusalem, a delegation of your subordinates called on me and claimed that, without you, their battalion would cease to be a battalion. I told them that the security of Jerusalem took precedence even over the quality of their battalion, and the Israel Defense Forces as a whole would not be the same without you."

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8,500 U.K. Troops
To Leave Continent

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuter).

— The Council of the Western European Union agreed at its meeting today to permit Britain to withdraw a further 8,500 men from West Germany in 1950, it was officially announced.

A communique said that the Council agreed to the British proposal as part of their general defence planning for 1950.

The decision is to help in the setting up of a joint communications project by Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq and Persia. It is estimated to \$12.5m, which the U.S.A. gave last year.

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Syrian Troops
Move Towards
Israel Border

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — Unusually heavy Syrian troop movements were noticed across the northeastern border today, following yesterday's attack on an Israeli police detachment clearing mines in the demilitarized zone near Kibbutz Dan.

Two policemen were killed and six wounded in the Syrian attack.

Observers near the border today noticed Syrian troops taking up advanced positions. Other movements indicated the arrival of reinforcements, suggesting the Syrians fear an Israeli reprisal.

The scene of the three-hour exchange of fire was quiet today as U.N. Observers carried out an investigation.

The probe inside Israeli territory, by two teams of U.N. Observers accompanied by Israeli officers attached to an Israeli military mission.

At the Portia Hospital, three of the six wounded policemen were still in a serious condition while the others are improving.

The two dead will be buried tomorrow (Thursday). They are Raymond Jolliffe, and Selim Sason, both aged 25.

Jolliffe will be buried in Natanya at 11 a.m.

From our Natanya correspondent it is learned that Jolliffe was born in Moulhouse, France, and came to this country in 1951 as a Youth Aliyah ward. When his parents arrived last year, he settled in Natanya with them.

It was also announced in Amman that Sir William Hayter, the British Permanent Representative to the U.N., is to visit Jordan for talks on February 5. He will spend four days in Amman.

Amman Radio yesterday launched a vituperative broadside against the "dictators and criminals" in Cairo and Damascus, who are disseminating false news about the union and positive neutralism in order to divert public attention from the ever-mounting Russian infiltration of the two countries.

"Jordan will not cease from fight against the red dictators in Damascus until the sword decides the issue between us," the commentator asserted.

Yesterday, a special ceremony took place at Damascus Airport to hand over an Egyptian plane to a gift of the Soviet Government to President Kuwaty.

Egyptian paratroopers carried out manoeuvres yesterday, leaping from Ilyushin transport planes. The exercises were witnessed by the War Minister and Chief of Staff, Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer.

(UP, ANA, Radio, Cairo Radio)

Syrian Killed In
Clash With Turks

DAMASCUS, Wednesday (UP).

— One Syrian was killed and one wounded yesterday when Turkish and Syrian forces fought a 3-hour battle on the border.

A Syrian military spokesman said today: "Sixty Turks attacked the border village of Bopan and did not withdraw until they had fought a 3-hour gun-battle with local defence forces and villagers."

Official sources said that on Tuesday evening contact was made with Col. Byron V. Leary, Acting Chief of the Truce Supervision Organization, in the report that he had been called to the Foreign Ministry.

There was likewise no truth to the report that the Syrian Government had decided to stop activity in the demilitarized zone.

According to the terms of the Armistice Agreement, Israel is permitted to carry on freely with non-military work in the zone. The only restriction is that no Army units be stationed there.

There is no reason, therefore, why Israel should not continue to work in the zone, it was said.

Holland Ousts Three
Soviet Officials

THE HAGUE, Wednesday (Reuter).

— The Foreign Ministry today confirmed reports that three members of the Soviet Embassy have been declared persona non grata.

The Foreign Office gave no details but reports said the three Russians have already left the country.

They were reported to be Col. I. Tchernov, Assistant Military Attaché, a Lt.-Commander who is Assistant Naval Attaché, and an interpreter.

RECOGNITION FOR VENEZUELAN JUNTA

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — The U.S. today recognized the new provisional Government of Venezuela.

Recognition of the junta which ousted President Jimenez last week also came today from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

The biggest fire in the history of Casablanca was raging last night in the city's largest market, causing damage expected to run into millions of pounds. Fruit and vegetables are expected to suffer heavily.

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More Foreign Currency
Must Be Earned—Eshkol

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The harnessing of strong winds, especially in the Naphtali hills, to drive electricity generators, would provide a cheap source of power at present produced in Israel.

This was claimed by Dr. Y. Frankel, a member of the Israel Research Council, in a lecture at Beit Leisani to night on "Use of Wind Power."

The lecture was a contribution to a symposium on "New Sources of Energy."

Strong winds prevail in all parts of the country and wind-driven generators with a capacity of 200 kilowatts, could be put up for \$16,000 each, Dr. Frankel said.

Mr. Eshkol, Minister of Finance, in which he outlined the Government's economic policy for 1950/51.

The 1950/51 budget, tabled in the Knesset last week, amounts to IL1,182.5m, an increase of 10 per cent over the 1949/50 budget which totalled IL1,063.8m.

The main problem facing the country in the coming year will be "how to increase the necessary import of raw materials, equipment and consumption goods in the face of insufficient inflow of public capital from abroad," said Mr. Eshkol.

Conditions in the U.S. may adversely affect income from the United Jewish Appeal and from the sale of Development Bonds. Income from U.S. economic aid is not expected to rise and the Government is faced with growing expenditure on the repayment of previous loans. These facts oblige the Government to increase its foreign currency reserves.

In the face of this, the country will have to increase and diversify its production. We must increase the supply of local raw materials, lower the component of imports in our production and "increase the Government's share in local labour on the repayment of previous loans. These facts oblige the Government to increase its foreign currency reserves."

Mr. Eshkol pointed out that while production more than doubled during the last 10 years, imports had increased to a much smaller extent.

But this is not enough, and the Government will have to ensure that the local product can compete with imported goods.

Higher Investments

Mr. Eshkol said that foreign capital must be offered adequate profits. The Government is granting, and will continue to grant special facilities for private investments. The Government has submitted to the Knesset a bill providing for an increase in the depreciation allowance for purposes of income tax, the abolition of the Defence Levy on companies and the reduction of income tax rates.

The newly-established Israel Industrial Institute will divert into useful channels the credits granted to industrial enterprises.

But the most important and natural way to obtain foreign currency is by increasing the volume of exports. Israel may well achieve a total of visible and invisible exports amounting to \$240m. in 1950, compared with \$200m. in the current year.

This rate was not enough and the alternative facing the country in the coming year is exports or unemployment.

Now that industry and agriculture have received the best of equipment and their output potential exceeds the absorptive capacity of the local market, it depends on us to supply foreign markets with products competitive in quality and in price.

Reviewing the Government's price policy, Mr. Eshkol stated that the success of our efforts to increase exports, attract foreign capital and avoid additional pressure for imports depends on the

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